

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Make a point of arriving at Chatuchak Weekend Market as early as possible – around 10am is a good bet – as the crowds are much thinner and the temperatures slightly lower.

Best Places to Eat

- Chatuchak Weekend Market (p143)
- Or Tor Kor Market (p147)
- Salt (p147)
- Nang Loeng Market (p147)
- Yusup (p147)
- Rosdee (p148)

For reviews, see p147 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- Cosmic Café (p149)
- Ratchada Soi 8 (p149)
- Parking Toys (p150)

For reviews, see p148 ➡

Best Markets

- Chatuchak Weekend Market (p143)
- Talat Rot Fai (p146)
- Nonhaburi Market (p146)

For reviews, see p146 ➡

Explore: Greater Bangkok

There are several reasons to visit Bangkok's suburbs, but most people come with markets in mind. Chatuchak Weekend Market draws tens of thousands of shoppers every weekend and is a hectic but must-do Bangkok experience. The Nonhaburi Market is an expansive wet market that shows the city's provincial side, while the retro-themed Talat Rot Fai is a magnet for Bangkok's hipsters. Other reasons to visit include nightlife, with the entertainment strip of RCA drawing thousands of partyers.

For the day markets, arrive as early as possible. Set aside at least half a day for Chatuchak. Getting to Nonhaburi Market by boat takes at least an hour and it has pretty much packed up by 9am. Talat Rot Fai is usually open until around 11pm. Most clubs and live music venues don't get going until 11pm and close at 2am.

Most of the markets are forgivingly located within easy access of the BTS (Skytrain) and/or MRT (Metro). Reaching other destinations in Bangkok's 'burbs often involves a taxi ride from BTS or MRT stations and a bit of luck. A mobile phone with a mapping function is a valuable tool in navigating the city.

Local Life

➤ **Chatuchak Weekend Market** (also known as JJ) may be a huge draw for tourists, but it's still very much a local affair, with tens of thousands of Thais shuffling between stalls and eating snacks every Saturday and Sunday.

➤ **RCA** For years, the strip of dance clubs, live-music clubs and bars known as Royal City Ave has been the first nightlife choice for most young Thais. In recent years the clientele has grown up and RCA now hosts locals and visitors of just about any age.

➤ **Local Style** Greasers, cowboys, hippies, punks and mods: Talat Rot Fai is the place to see the various cliques of modern Thai youth.

➤ **Full-Flavoured Eats** An excursion to Bangkok's suburbs can be a profoundly tasty experience. The northern reaches of the city in particular are home to heaps of restaurants that would never consider toning down their flavours for foreigners. The city's outskirts are also a great place to sample regional Thai cuisine.

Getting There & Away

➤ **BTS** Ari, Bang Chak, Chong Nonsi, Ekkamai, Mo Chit, Ratchathewi, Wongwian Yai.

➤ **MRT** Chatuchak Park, Kamphaeng Phet, Phahon Yothin, Phra Ram 9, Thailand Cultural Centre.

➤ **River ferry** Tha Nonhaburi, Saphan Phra Pin Klao.